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AFRICAN-AMERICAN
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February 12, 2003

Honorable Michael Powell

Chairman, Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20544

RE: CC Docket No. 01-338, Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers

Directors

Lemuel Daniels

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Dear Commissioner Powell:

Executive Director

Stan Hébert

The Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce is comprised of small and large businesses. For the small business owners, our growth is dependent on access to the latest technologies and advancements in the telecommunications industry – and at a reasonable price.

It is critical that the FCC establishes a national framework governing the telecom industry that encourages investment in infrastructure and creates an environment allowing for long-term, sustainable competition.

Furthermore, the FCC should seek to pave the way for new telecommunications services to be rolled out more quickly and efficiently. In particular, broadband deployment has been sluggish due to inefficient regulations. Freeing broadband investment from costly unbundling requirements will encourage further investment and the deployment of valuable new technologies nationwide. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gene Hale

Chairman

Cc: Commissioner Abernathy
Commission Adelstein
Commissioner Martin
Commissioner Copps